

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A bearing member manufacturing method for
2 manufacturing a bearing member having a body part formed of a first material of a light alloy, and
3 a bearing part formed of a second material of a light-alloy-base material different from the light alloy
4 forming the body part, said bearing part having a bearing surface of a semicircular cross section and
5 integrally combined with the body part, said bearing member manufacturing method comprising the
6 steps of:

7 forming short, cylindrical first workpieces made of the second material and each having a
8 cylindrical inside surface serving as the bearing surface;

9 placing at least one of said first workpieces in a mold with a cavity formed around the at least
10 one first workpiece;

11 pouring said first material in molten state into said cavity around the at least one first
12 workpiece placed in the mold to ~~metallurgically~~ metallurgically bond together the at least one first
13 workpiece and ~~[[the]]~~ a second workpiece along an interface therebetween, to thus form, in the mold,
14 a primary workpiece having at least one semifinished workpiece including the at least one first

15 workpiece and the second workpiece integrally combined with each other; and

16 dividing the primary workpiece removed from the mold into halves along a center plane
17 including a center axis of said cylindrical inside surface of the at least one first workpiece
18 ~~workpieces~~ to obtain two substantially equivalent secondary workpieces for forming two equivalent
19 bearing members.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

1 Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according to
2 claim 1, wherein the molten first metal is poured into the cavity so as to flow in a swirling current
3 in the cavity.

1 Claim 5 (Original): The bearing member manufacturing method according to claim 1,
2 wherein an aluminum alloy is used as the first material, and an aluminum alloy having a high silicon
3 content is used as the second material.

1 Claim 6 (Withdrawn) The bearing member manufacturing method according to claim 1,
2 further comprising:

3 a casting step of forming a primary workpiece including a predetermined number of
4 semifinished workpieces axially arranged such that at least second workpieces included in the

5 semifinished workpieces are continuously arranged in a direction parallel to the center plane, and
6 a dividing step of dividing the primary workpiece along a plane perpendicular to the
7 direction perpendicular to the center plane of the primary workpiece into the predetermined number
8 of semifinished workpieces.

1 Claim 7 (Withdrawn) The bearing member manufacturing method according to claim 1,
2 further comprising:

3 a casting step of forming the primary workpiece including a predetermined number of
4 semifinished workpieces arranged in a direction perpendicular to the center axis included in the
5 center plane such that the second workpieces are continuously arranged in a direction perpendicular
6 to the center axis in the center plane, and

7 a dividing step of dividing the primary workpiece along a plane perpendicular to the direction
8 perpendicular to the center axis in the center plane into the predetermined number of semifinished
9 workpieces.

1 Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according to
2 claim 1, wherein a coefficient of linear expansion of said first material is greater than a coefficient
3 of linear expansion of said second material.

1 Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according to
2 claim 1, wherein said cavity is given a substantially square shape with four corner portions, as
3 viewed in a center axis direction of the cylindrical first workpieces, and said step of pouring said first
4 material in molten state into said cavity is carried out by pouring the first material at said four corner
5 portions of the cavity.

1 Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according
2 to claim 1, wherein the bearing member is for supporting a crankshaft of an internal combustion
3 engine.

1 Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according
2 to claim 1, wherein the short, cylindrical first workpieces are manufactured by producing a
3 cylindrical workpiece by extrusion and then cutting the cylindrical workpiece into the short,
4 cylindrical first workpieces.

1 Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according
2 to claim 1, wherein said body part is for being secured to a cylinder block of an engine having a
3 crankshaft.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/798,889

Response filed April 24, 2008

Reply to OA dated January 24, 2008

1 Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The bearing member manufacturing method according
2 to claim 12, wherein the first material forming said body part has a coefficient of linear expansion
3 close to that of the cylinder block, and the second material forming said bearing part has a coefficient
4 of linear expansion closer to that of the crankshaft than that of the first material.

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